Economic Cooperation Organization
Regional Coordination Centre
for Food Security

ECO-RCCFS

Strengthening regional collaboration for improving food security and achieve zero hunger in the countries of Economic Cooperation Organization.

Continued efforts to improve food security and achieve zero hunger are needed in all the countries of ECO.

Recent evidence continues to signal **a global rise in food insecurity** and a reversal of trends following a prolonged decline. This trend is found in most countries of the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO), namely Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Iran, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan, Tajikistan, Türkiye, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan.

According to latest estimate, **59 million people** are still suffering from **undernourishment** in the ECO region, indicating that about **13 percent** of the regional population is still **food insecure**. Continued efforts to improve food security and achieve zero hunger are needed in all the countries of ECO.

Furthermore, **prevalence of overweight** and **obesity** is increasing in almost all ECO member countries, particularly in middle-income countries and urban areas, with a corresponding increase in the risk of serious health problems.

Ensuring food security and nutrition is one of the most important investments that will strengthen society. As these are provided, diet-related diseases will decrease, the welfare of people, especially children, will improve and they will be more beneficial to society. In this way, development and poverty reduction will become inevitable.

ECONOMIC COOPERATION
ORGANIZATION
EGIONAL COORDINATION
NTRE FOR FOOD SECURITY
(ECO-RCC)
Meeting of the Steering Committee
March 13-14, 2019
Antalya, Turkey

ECO-RCCFS is supporting regional efforts for ending hunger, food insecurity and malnutrition in all its forms, for all.

ECO-RCCFS was established in 2012 as a programme-based subsidiary body of the ECO with the aim to coordinate efforts for implementing the ECO Regional Programme for Food Security (RPFS), a Programme which was agreed by ECO member states initially in 2010. Today, the center also works towards facilitating the identification and prioritization of key impediments to food security at national and regional levels, and the planning of coordinated actions to address those impediments.

Main objectives of the ECO-RCCFS are to;

- **Enhance** cooperation and information exchange on food security;
- **Coordinate and facilitate** all activities under ECO Regional Program for Food Security (RPFS);
- **Collaborate** with all relevant stakeholders;
- **Raise awareness** on food security in the ECO Region;
- **Organize** trainings, seminars and workshops on food security;
- **Identify and contact** potential donors toward implementation of RPFS.

Economic Cooperation Organization Regional Coordination Centre for Food Security (ECO-RCCFS) concentrates on ensuring food security and aims to be a hub for regional collaboration in the ECO region. This focus guides ECO-RCCFS in analysing the current state of food security in the region to provide solutions and improve the current situation.

ECO-RCCFS is leading the efforts to implement the ECO Regional Programme for Food Security (RPFS).

The 6th ECO Agricultural Ministerial Meeting in 2019 officially declared the need to develop a new ECO-RPFS, and the ECO Regional Coordination Center (ECO-RCCFS) was mandated to govern its implementation. As an operational framework, the RPFS would be instrumental in approaching to potential donors for funding its implementation.

The new RPFS will have the vision **"to ensure food security and nutrition at all levels for underpinning sustainable development towards the improved well-being of the populations in all ECO Member Countries."**

Need for timely, accurate and reliable data is more crucial than ever.

The increasing effects of diseases, climate change, population growth, rising food prices, urbanization on food systems and the ongoing effects of the pandemic around the world have made it increasingly difficult to achieve the SDG targets.

At this point, it is of utmost importance to carry out researches on increasing access to food, providing food supply chain, rural and urbanization connection and market access, minimizing diseases, malnutrition, and climate change, deterioration of natural resources and logistics problems, especially in the post-Covid period. To provide solutions to the problems, investigating the existing situation is crucial.

In this regard, there is a growing demand from both public and private actors to have access to more timely, reliable, and accurate data for informed decision-making.

In 2019, ECO-RCCFS published the first of the annual reports titled **"Overview of Food Security in ECO Countries"** providing a comprehensive overview of the current status of food security in the region using the indicators of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The annual report for 2020 provides a comprehensive review of the current status of food security in the region, highlighting the characteristics of food security, trends, challenges and recommendations. The publication brings together the latest and reliable data to provide the most up-to-date food security overview of the ECO region.

ECO-RCCFS

DATA & STATISTICS

ECO-RCCFS is a regional coordination centre for implementation of the ECO/FAO Regional Programme for Food Security (RPFS) that collaborates with the ECO Secretariat and FAO-SEC.

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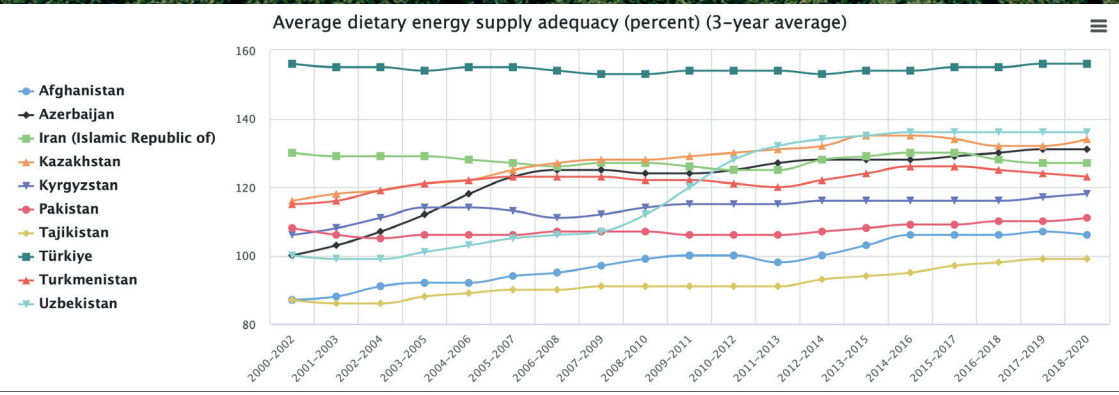

A new, trilingual website is to bolster regional exchange of information and communication!

The ECO-RCCFS has recently updated its website with the aim to bolster regional exchange of information and communication. To be published in English, Russian and Turkish, the website will be providing up-to-date information regarding the activities of the ECO-RCCFS.

One of the new features of the website is the section dedicated for **"Data & Statistics"** from where it will be possible to extract data and statistics on food security in the ECO member countries based on four pillars of food security, namely, availability, access, utilization and stability. Furthermore, publications on food security, developed by ECO-RCCFS as well as by other organizations including FAO, will be available at the website for the use of decision makers and for agri-food professionals.

The website can be accessed at **http://www.ecorccfs.org/**

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